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ABSTRACT

This book explores the issues involved in developing standards in higher education, examining the practical issues involved in benchmarking and offering a critical analysis of the problems associated with this developmental tool. The book focuses primarily on experience in the United Kingdom (UK), but looks also at international activity in this area. The 19 essays are organized in four sections: benchmarking rationales and threshold standards; operational issues; UK perspectives on the development and use of benchmarks; and international perspectives. Titles are: "Historical and Contextual Perspectives on Benchmarking in Higher Education" (Michael Armstrong); "How Can Threshold Standards Assure and Enhance Quality?" (Sally Brown); "Benchmarking Theory--A Framework for the Business World as a Context for its Application in Higher Education" (Alex Appleby); "Benchmarks and Templates--Some Notes and Queries from a Sceptic" (Sinclair Goodlad); "Describing Higher Education--Some Conflicts and Conclusions" (Jenny Moon); "Institutional Comparisons--Reality or Illusion?" (Harvey Woolf); "Benchmarking across Subjects in an Institution" (J.P. Margham and S. Jackson); "The Business Approach to Benchmarking--An Exploration of the Issues as a Background for Its Use in Higher Education" (David Yarrow); "UK Experiences in the Development of Benchmarking and Threshold Standards" (Ian Haines); "Benchmarking in Law" (John Bell); "Collaborative Accreditation--Benchmarking in a Professional and Academic Partnership To Recognize Programmes of Continuing Professional Development: A Case Study" (Sally Gosling); "Benchmarking, Assessment, and the Multidisciplinary Curriculum" (Rebecca Johnson); "Towards Multidisciplinary Benchmarking" (Stuart Billingham); "International Benchmarking--Fact or Fantasy?" (Helen Smith); "The United States' Perspective on, and Experiences of, Performance Indicators and Threshold Standards--How Is Quality Determined?" (T. Dary Erwin); "Assuring Standards in New Zealand's Universities" (David Woodhouse);

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"Benchmarks and Threshold Standards--A New Zealand Polytechnic's Perspective on the Approach" (Nick Zepke, Guyon Neutze, and Linda Leach); "Approaches to Degree Standards and Quality Assurance in Post-Apartheid South African Higher Education--Comparative Perspectives" (Digby Warren); and "How Can Benchmarking Work to Best Effect in Higher Education?" (Sally Brown). (Most selections contain references.) (CH)

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